

Application No.: 10/038035

Docket No.: 10253-00145-US

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method for treating an article having a textile surface with a stainblocker composition, the textile surface being formed from at least two types of dyeable nylon yarns, wherein at least one type of nylon yarn is dyeable by an acid dyestuff and at least one other type of nylon yarn is dyeable by a cationic dyestuff, the method comprising the sequential steps of:

(a) dyeing the textile surface of the article with an acid dyestuff and a cationic dyestuff;

(b) passing the textile surface of the article through a bath containing a stainblocker composition and a surfactant, the bath having a temperature from above seventy to ninety-five degrees Celsius (70 to 95 °C), the textile surface remaining in the bath for about five (5) to about thirty (30) seconds;

(c) removing excess water from the textile surface of the article;

(d) passing the article through an ambient temperature zone; and

(e) rinsing the textile surface of the article with water, and thereafter suctioning and drying the same,

such that substantially the entire textile surface of the article is coated with a stainblocker composition whereby the textile surface has a stain resistance of 9 or higher on the AATCC Red 40 Stain Scale.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the textile article is a pile surface structure having a plurality of pile elements thereon, the pile elements being formed from the first and the second types of nylon yarn, wherein substantially the entire height of each pile element is coated with a stainblocker composition whereby the pile surface structure has a stain resistance of 9 or higher on the AATCC Stain Rating Scale 40.

3. (Original) The method of 1 wherein the stainblocker composition is of the anionic functionalized type.

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4. (Original) The method of claims 3 wherein the stainblocker composition is selected from the group consisting of sulphonated phenol formaldehyde condensate type, maleic acid anhydride type, acrylate dispersions and mixtures thereof; the stainblocker is present between three percent (3%) and five percent (5%) based on the weight of the nylon yarns; and the pH of the stainblocker bath is between two (2) and five (5).

5. (Original) The method of claims 1 wherein the stainblocker composition is of the sulphone resole type having nonionic functionality.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the stainblocker composition is present between one and four percent (4%) and six percent (6%) based on the weight of the nylon yarns, and the pH of the stainblocker bath is between six (6) and seven and one-half (7.5).

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the two types of dyeable nylon yarns are bulked continuous filament yarns.

8. (Original) The method of claims 1 wherein the two types of dyeable nylon yarns are staple spun yarns.

9. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein at least some of the pile elements are formed from both a nylon yarn dyeable by an acid dyestuff and a nylon yarn dyeable by a cationic dyestuff.

10. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein at least some of the pile elements are formed from a nylon yarn dyeable by an acid dyestuff and at least others of the pile elements are formed from a nylon yarn dyeable by a cationic dyestuff.

Claims 11-19 (Withdrawn).